8

THE MAIDEN's PRIZE;

OR

Batchelor's PUZZLE;

BEING

A Miſcellany of Theological and Philoſophical QUERIES.

Propoſed to all the ingenious Married Men and Batchelors in the Kingdom of England.

By Mrs. ANN WARD, a beautiful young Lady of Five Hundred Pounds a Year.

Who vows never to Marry any Man but him who reſolves the following Queſtions.

She likewiſe promiſes the ingenious Married Man an Hundred Guineas for his Trouble.

Printed and Sold in Aldermary Church Yard, Bow Lane, London.

Knowledge and Learning promoted.

BRITISH MUSEUM

SEVERAL young gentlemen and ladies walking lately together in a fine garden near this town beatified with variety of pleaſant flowers, and adorned with grottos and delightful alcoves; one of the gentlemen, an Oxford Scholar, took an occaſion to diſcourſe of the garden of Eden, man's happineſs therein, and excluſion from thence; reflecting on the Serpent's ſubtilty and temptation, and the woman's credulity and compliance with the miſeries and corruption of the human race, occaſioned thereby; and in fine concluded that it had been better for man, both then and now to have been alone, (ſo far did his reſentment carry him) that to have been plagued by a ſingle woman; calling them, ſilly, untractable, perverſe, uſeleſs, imperious creatures, unworthy as well as incapable of any office, eccleſiaſtical, civil, or military. ——— The young ladies preſent were all abaſhed and confounded to hear theſe bitter invectives; unleſs Miſs Ward a young gentlewoman of ſixteen years of age, but very learned ſtudious, and ingenious, her age and ſex conſidered, broke ſilence, and thus replied:

Sir, you are not the firſt, that has ungratefully as well as unjuſtly thrown dirt in the face of our ſex, like the cuckoo, that picks out the eyes of thoſe very birds that hatch and bring them forth; yet one of our Authors will tell you, that man has ſucked a ſow, who gives a woman an ill word.

Indeed, they uſurp an unjuſt dominion over the women, and tyrannize and keep them in vaſſalage, they debar them of learning as much as poſſible, ſo as the Romaniſts keep the laity from the bible; yet maugre all their policy, there have been women in all ages as famous for learning, conduct, courage, value and virtue, and other endowments of body and mind, as any man whatever; and more would be ſo if they had the ſame opportunities to improve, wchih the men kept in their own hands. I need not mention Deborah, Hulder, Judith, St. Phillip's four daughters the Amazons, Thomyrys, Semeriamis, Theleſtris, the ten Sybils, Boadica and her daughters, queen Elizabeth, Joan de arc, Sir T. Moor's daughter, madam Ramon, madam Darcy, the dutcheſs of Newcaſtle, madam Cencliver, the counteſs of Pembroke, Mrs. Behn, and a thouſand others, famous in ſcripture and hiſtory, who have equaled or even ſurpaſſed the men in the ages they lived in, becauſe theſe things are known and acknowledged among the learned world.

And to your charge, that the Serpent beguiled the woman and not the man, you ſhould alſo conſider Adam was to blame, in leaving his wife alone, without aſſiſtance, to withſtand the ſubtil ſerpent; ſhe was beguiled by a crafty Devil, but man was deceived by a ſilly woman. And though you, and evey ſaucy critick are ſo tart with your ſcurrelous epitaphs the Sacred oracles call woman "Corona viris, &c." the crown of Man, the glory of man, ſuch glorious appellations; and really for this cauſe was woman formed or rather faſhioned laſt, as the moſt perfect pieces of the creation ſurpaſſing man in thoſe excellent qnalities attributed to the angels by Dionyſius, Aquintus, Scotus, Lumbard, and other ſchoolmen, viz. Piety, Charity, Love, Modeſty, Innocence, beauty of body, fineneſs of voice,

and other external and internal virtues and propirties, as I can eaſily make appear, when time and occaſion ſerve.

However, ſeeing the men ſo much glory in learning and parts above the women, I have hereunto annexed forty-three queſtions, reſolving never to marry a man till I find an ingenious batchelor, capable to anſwer, theſe queſtions, allowing twelve months for the ſame; or otherwiſe will ſend an hundred guineas, a preſent to any learned man, who without exception, will fully reſolve each queſtion: purpoſing hereafter to explain them myſelf to the ſatisfaction of the learned world, as I hope will prove a vindication of women from the groundleſs charges paſt on them by men.

Knowledge

Knowledge and Learning farther promoted: Or, the Fair Sex vindicated.

1. IF a man would throw himself from the top of a high tower, doth he fall to the ground by attraction, compreſſion, or gravity ?

2. Whether is the ſoul of man an active principle when he is aſleep, or how employed ?

3. Whether ſouls are traduced from parents to children or pre-exiſtant, and created with angels. and when and whether one ſoul has any ſuperior qualifications to another ?

4. Whether the actions of bodies proceed form mere mechaniſm or the immediate impulſes of a thinking being ?

5. Why are the ſouls called She's, and the Angels reconed in the maſculine gender ?

6. Whether the ſoul properly ſpeaking may be ſaid to feel pain, or the body only?

7. Why doth the ſenſitive plant as it is called, contract and bow down itſelf when you offer to touh it?

8. Whether a foetus be capable of reſpiration?

9. Whether ſtone or water grows like other vegetables?

10. Whether all fiſhes were deſtroyed at the univerſal deluge, as well as other creatures?

11. Whether the planets and other ſtars are habitable worlds, according to the ſuggeſtion of St. Auguſtine and other ancient fathers?

12. Whether there are ſuch creatures as a Phoenix, a Unicorn, and a Salamander?

13. Whether glaſs be porus like other metals, and if poſſible to be made malable as ſome have related?

14 Which is the moſt noble and durable paſſion. that of love between the two different Sexes, or the platonic love between two friends?

15. Was Melchezideck born of ordinary generation, if ſo' who were his father and mother?

16. Why do not the ſpirits of wine, brandy, &c. freeze as well as water, oil, &c.

17. Why doth the beating of a drum, or thunder turn ale ſour?

18. Why are urin, blood ſweat, &c ſalt?

19. Why is the ſpring water freſh, juſt coming from the ſalt ſea?

20. Whence hath the Bath water in England that extraordinary heat which always attends it?

21 If hail be frozen harder than ſnow, why does it fall in warm weather, and the other not?

22. What may occaſion thoſe mighty pillars of water which the ſailors call ſpouts ?

23 Whether angels or devils know our thoughts, otherwiſe than by inſtitution, ſeeing it is the incommunicable property of a great immenſe omnifcient deity ?

24. Whether ſpeech abloringe, be a natural gift or an acquired art ?

25. Whether ſympathy and antepathy be natural inſticts implanted, or in communications or oppoſition of the effluvio of diſtant bodies ?

25. Whether a perpetual motion is or can be demoſtrated ?

27. Why is our breath viſible in the winter and not in the ſummer ?

28, Whether the copernican ſyſtem of the earth round on its own axis, be not a contradiction to the words of Joſhua, "and thou Sun ſhall ſtand ſtill."?

29. Whence proceed the variety of colours we behold ſpringing from the ſame ſoil and ſalts ?

30. Why have not men green and blue hair as well as red and white ?

31. What mark did God ſet on Cain, or whoſe daughter took he to wife in the land of Nod ?

32. What is meant by the ſons of God begetting mighty Giants, and of mighty men of the daughters of men ?

33. Whether there are mermen and mermaids, as the antient philoſophers hold, and endowed with rational ſouls or no ?

34. Whether the moon be a great body of light, abſtractly conſidered from the ſun, as it is ſaid in Geneſis, contrary to modern aſtronomers, or does it emit any ſenſible heat ?

35, Wherefore does the river Nilus in Egypt dry up in the winter, and cover tis banks in the ſummer ?

36. Whither does the ſwallow and cuckoo retire to in winter, when they leave this climate?

37. Whether words or ſond may be congealed under the frozen zone, and thawed, and heard a long time after as it is affirmed by ſome?

38. Whether the earth or ſea takes up the greateſt part of the world?

39. Whether the earth will be totally annihilated after the univerſal conflagration, or repleniſhed again as after the deluge?

40. Whether the divine intelligence and ſpirits of juſt men departed, have viſible ſhape or form?

41. Where paradiſe was ſituated when Adam was born?

42. What ſort of fruit was forbidden to our firſt Parents?

43. What is the magnetic virtue of the loadſtone, amber, and other electric bodies? or whether finding out the philoſopher's ſtone be practicable or no?

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FINIS.